

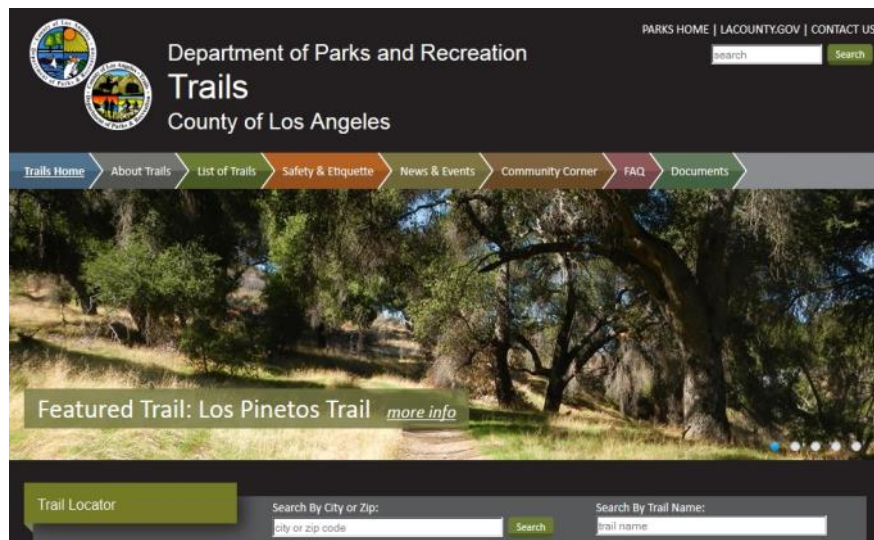


GREEN SCENE

December 2014

NEW DPR WEBSITE LETS USERS LIVE LIFE AT TRAIL'S PACE

At TRAILS.LACOUNTY.GOV, a wealth of information about a brand of outdoor recreation with fast-growing popularity.



Recognizing the growing popularity of outdoor recreation enjoyed on paths through parks and natural areas, the Department of Parks and Recreation in November unveiled a new website dedicated exclusively to information about trails throughout Los Angeles County.

Years in the making with the help of the Internal Services Department, trails.lacounty.gov is a one-stop resource for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and anyone in need of detailed, regularly-updated information on trail conditions, directions, elevation, weather, air quality and much more. The project was funded with dollars specifically designated by all five Board offices, and the Department expresses deep gratitude for their visionary support of the County's trails program.

The new website covers 367 miles of trails that have been GPS-mapped and collected into a GIS database. They include trails maintained by a number of partners in the development of the website: the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, California State Parks, Mountains Restoration Trust, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

"Los Angeles County is home to one of the world's most diverse and expansive multi-use trail systems, and a growing number of people of all ages and backgrounds are using these trails in a variety of ways," said

Mayor Michael D. Antonovich, who spearheaded a trails information program that began in the Fifth Supervisorial District and grew into every area of the County, with strong support and participation from all members of the Board of Supervisors.

"Whether it is for hiking, biking, horseback riding, personal discovery or simply taking the family out for a walk in nature, trails in L.A. County have something for everyone. Trails.lacounty.gov is a very comprehensive, highly interactive website that will expose more people to these inimitable natural resources, deepen their knowledge about them and expand opportunities to enjoy healthy outdoor recreation."

The specific emphasis on trails is supported by data: According to the 2014 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report released by the non-profit Outdoor Foundation, running/jogging/trail running, bicycling and hiking were all among the top five most popular outdoor activities among youth/young adults (ages 6-24) and adults (ages 25+) last year.

In Los Angeles County, residents and visitors can take advantage of a regional network of trails that connect beach communities with the far reaches of the Santa Monica Mountains, Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains, through the Puente Hills and into the Baldwin Hills, from the desert and foothill communities,

along rivers and channels, and into the urban core.

Among the features on trails.lacounty.gov: a comprehensive list of trails that includes such vital information as trail length, elevation gain and permitted uses; a locator with the ability to search by city name, ZIP code or trail name; interactive digital maps enabling users to view the steepness or surface type on trails; and downloadable and printable QuickGuides that include trail maps, descriptions, directions, photos and elevation profiles. A mobile app is expected in 2015.

The site was officially unveiled at the Nov. 5 meeting of the Board of Supervisors. A number of staff deserve special thanks for their contribution to developing the site: Norma E. Garcia, Kathy King, Frank Moreno, Olga Ruano, Zach Likins, Catherine Ricci, Robert Ettleman, Jeremy Bok, Melissa Brown and Phillip George.

"Many of the features that users will find at trails.lacounty.gov are inspired by frequently-asked questions that we receive from people looking to visit a trail in Los Angeles County," said Deputy Director Norma E. Garcia. "The website is tailored to help encourage everyone to consider the many recreational, fitness and educational opportunities that are available to them on L.A. County trails."

— Andre Herndon



DIRECTOR'S DESK RUSS GUINEY

This may be known as the season of giving, but what makes me most proud is the way each and every one of you exhibit that spirit all year round.

As we conclude another amazing year together in service to Los Angeles County, I remain awed by the spirit of generosity and community-building that is regularly on display in the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Here's just one example of how your unshakable commitment to those values makes a difference in people's lives: In the days leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, the agencies in our Department served 3,574 meals to families throughout the County.

This is a remarkable achievement, especially when I consider all of the extra miles you go, week in and week out, to ensure excellence in pursuit of our mission: To maintain beautiful parks, first-rate facilities and enriching programs that make life better for the 10 million people who call this County home.

As 2014 fades into 2015, let us hold tight to that commitment, and continue upholding our well-deserved reputation as the finest park and recreation agency anywhere.

Thank you for your service, and may the holiday season bring joy and an abundance of blessings to you and yours!

TESTING THEIR METTLE, EARNING A MEDAL

Park Wreckers make impressive showing for Department in 3rd Annual Dragon Boat Race at Whittier Narrows.

Squaring off against elite competition, a Department of Parks and Recreation squad made a big impression at the 3rd Annual Dragon Boat Race held Oct. 18 at Whittier Narrows.

Recording the second-best qualifying time in the Public Services Division, the Park Wreckers — Hayden Sohm, Henry Brouwer, Francine Choi, Daniel Abratte, Eva Jusup, Oscar Ugalde, Dina Jusup, Roy Williams, Billie Bivens, Javier R. Martin, Bailey Moreno, Alejandro Ruiz and Chris Del Rey — placed third overall in Group A, earning a bronze medal in a race against the best teams entered in the competition. Dragon boat racing, which is characterized by colorfully-decorated boats and costumes, as well as rhythmic drumming that helps keep rowers working in unison, dates back 2,000 years to ancient China.

With the Legg Lake shoreline dotted by colorful banners and flags marking the occasion, the race was sponsored by the International Cultural Exchange Association. It is

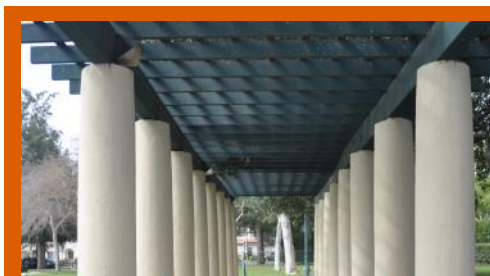


part of the annual Dragon Boat Festival, which invites Los Angeles County, City and private sector organizations to take part in the friendly competition meant to build cross-cultural understanding and cooperation. Among the special guests at the event was Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis.

Special thanks go to David Jallo, Martha Moreno, Reggie Tuyay and the entire Whittier Narrows Recreation Area team for providing a clean and well maintained area for everyone to enjoy, with wonderful music for the day provided by Regional Facilities Agency staff member Al Ewing.

— *Joyce Fitzpatrick*

WHERE IN THE DEPARTMENT



IS THIS ???????

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

BIG DEBUT FOR HACIENDA HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER



New 21,000 square-foot facility wows crowds in early days of operation.

On Oct. 25, more than 2,000 people joined Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District for the unveiling of the \$21 million Hacienda Heights Community Center, our Department's 175th park.

Emceed by Chief Deputy Director John Wicker, the festivities included live musical performances, remarks and presentations by local leaders, free food tastings from local restaurants and tours of the community center.

"I want to thank the community for partnering with us to develop this beautiful landmark," said Chairman Knabe. "Together, we have built a hub for this area, a place where people of all ages can learn, play, grow, get healthy, make new friendships and have fun! My sincere congratulations and appreciation to everyone who put so much effort into creating this new, state-of-the-art, environmentally responsible facility."

Located at 1234 Valencia Ave., the 21,000 square-foot community center is the former site of Hillgrove Elementary School. Amenities include a multi-purpose performance space with stage and retractable seating for up to 500 people;

scene shop, green room, and dressing room; professional-style dance rehearsal space; catering kitchen; and rooms dedicated to arts-and-crafts and computers.

Surrounding the center are seven acres of gorgeous recreational parkland, with features that include walking trails, fitness stations, and lawn areas for outdoor gatherings and activities. A civic art installation by artist James Dinh, entitled "Circles of a Ripple" is also a key element of the site.

Now open to the public, the center, which was five years in the making, boasts close to 30 low-cost programs and classes. Led by experienced staff and instructors, they cover a variety of topics and interests ranging from digital photography and web design to Lego engineering and dance.

While the programs are certain to draw wide interest, facilities at the center are also available for rental — a much-needed resource for organizations and residents looking to host performances or other large gatherings. Be sure to call or stop by the center to find out more!

"The Hacienda Heights Community Center is emblematic of our motto and guiding principle: 'Parks Make Life Better!' By offering a beautiful gathering place and many low-cost resources for healthy recreation along with personal and cultural

enrichment, this center will be a central point in this fantastic community for generations to come," said Russ Guiney, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Future generations are sure to appreciate the care that has gone into ensuring that the center's design reflects Los Angeles County's strong commitment to environmental stewardship.

Many sustainable technologies and design elements — such as natural light, a high reflective roofing system, harvested wood throughout the center, reused concrete and asphalt, post-consumer recyclable content products and drought tolerant landscaping — make the new center an environmentally responsible addition to the community. For its extensive energy efficiency efforts, the Hacienda Heights Community Center is expected to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Rating.

A number of Department staff received recognition for their contributions to Hacienda Heights Community Center. Special thanks go to Joe Mendoza, Mika Yamamoto, Melinda Roundtree, Miguel Vasquez, Ron Cox, Sam Adams, Jim Smith, Blake Warner, Susan Brown, Brian Ceballos, Margaret Trujillo, Cherry Jimenez, Kadeshia Goulihane and Letty Guerrero. — **Catarah Coleman**



ON YouTube



For the introductory video we contributed to the new County portal (lacounty.gov), Video Production Specialist Shane Savanapridi counts just some of the ways our parks and other facilities make lives better across Los Angeles County. <http://youtu.be/UGJwaFa7GDU>

DREAMS DO COME TRUE

At Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, a pair of new Dodgers Dreamfields are a homerun for the community.

Two new Dodgers Dreamfields were dedicated at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park on the morning of Oct. 18, as dozens of families joined Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation, the LA84 Foundation and the Department of Parks and Recreation for a fun and celebratory event.

The two new Dreamfields are the eighth and ninth in the Department, extending an initiative that has brought joy to hundreds of children in Los Angeles County who are learning the game of baseball on beautifully-designed and -maintained fields with an unmistakable Major League feel.

Supervisor Ridley-Thomas thanked “the LA84 Foundation and the Los Angeles Dodger Foundation for the investment they have made not only in this community, but in so many others around the Second District. Having safe and beautiful parks with brand new fields like this one go a long way toward instilling positive values and healthy lifestyles.”

Added Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney: “Our partnership with the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation and LA84 Foundation is helping change lives through

the first-class recreational opportunities that Dodgers

Dreamfields enable us to provide. For Roosevelt Park and the community it serves, these amazing new fields will be a point of pride — a place to learn values, acquire skills and make memories that will last a lifetime.”

The two Dreamfields at Franklin D. Roosevelt Park include newly installed side and outfield fencing, newly replaced and refurbished backstop mesh and posts, newly installed metal dugout roofs, new laser leveled infield surface including new infield mix and bases, new turf infield and watering system, new laser-leveled outfield surface including new sprinkler heads and new sod, new remote controlled solar powered scoreboard and field signage.

Special thanks go to Joe Mendoza, Mika Yamamoto, Ron Cox, Melinda Roundtree, Charlotte Perkins and the entire Roosevelt Park team, William Hayes, Miguel Vazquez and Kenya Williams.



GROUND BROKEN ON DON WALLACE MULTI-USE TRAIL CONNECTOR

Named for a local outdoors enthusiast, planned trail is the result of historic multi-agency cooperation

At approximately 1,700 linear feet, the Don Wallace Multi-Use Trail Connector will not be among the longest trails maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. But don't let its size fool you: This historic trail, named for a local advocate who pushed for its creation, will have a tremendous impact on the opportunities available to the growing number of people across the region who enjoy trail recreation.

On Sept. 24, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney, Wallace and a host of others joined in Calabasas to break ground on the trail connector — which, upon its completion, will become the first formal multi-use trail to cross under the 101 Freeway. Historically, trail users in the area have ridden or hiked on freeway overpasses or passed illegally through stormwater culverts maintained by Caltrans.

The Don Wallace Multi-Use Trail Connector will enable safe passage under the highway, and provide connectivity to the Calabasas Cold Creek Trail, the Los Virgenes Creek trails, as well as the Malibu Creek State Park trail system.

Now underway, the project is being completed in cooperation with the Department of Public Works, Caltrans, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Calabasas. For Department staff, special thanks go to Hayden Sohm, Norma E. Garcia, Kathy King, Jim Smith, Frank Moreno, Lee Barocas and Dwight LaCroix.

“Safe trail connectivity is a very important concept to those who enjoy outdoor recreation in Los Angeles County, and that is

underscored by the willingness of so many partners to come together and make the Don Wallace Multi-Use Trail Connector possible,” said Supervisor Yaroslavsky, whose office spearheaded the project. “For generations to come, those fortunate enough to find themselves on this trail will be able to connect with nature and stay healthy through the endless number of recreational possibilities that it will open up.”

With creation of the connector trail, all of the regional trail alignments will connect some of the northernmost reaches of the County to coastal areas. Speaking at the groundbreaking, Wallace, a retired firefighter who strongly advocates outdoor recreation, noted that the trail named in his honor will enable trail users from throughout Los Angeles County to reach the Pacific Crest Trail, which stretches from the U.S.-Mexico border to the U.S.-Canada border.

“I’m so excited to see that this is finally going to happen,” he told the assembled well-wishers. “I hope to be back for the grand opening, and look forward to seeing you all there!”

With interest in trail recreation on an upswing, Guiney said the Department of Parks and Recreation is equally pleased that the Don Wallace Multi-Use Trail Connector is coming to pass.

“The groundbreaking on the Don Wallace Trail marks the beginning of an exciting time for trails in the area,” said Director Russ Guiney, “and we look forward to the day when people will be able to enjoy all that it has to offer.”

— **Andre Hemdon & Joyce Fitzpatrick**



20 YEARS



Albert Ortiz
Regional Facilities Agency

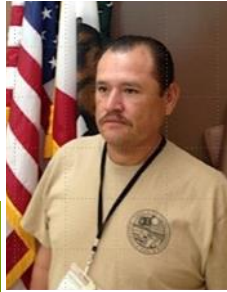


Faith Parducho
Executive Office

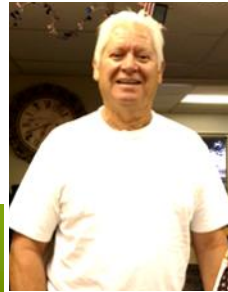


Diane Thorne
Planning & Development Agency

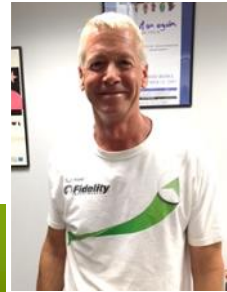
25 YEARS



Sergio Almendariz
North Agency



Robert Castanon
South Agency



Bruce Doll
Regional Facilities Agency



Jesus Suarez
South Agency

30 YEARS



Darryl Clayton
South Agency



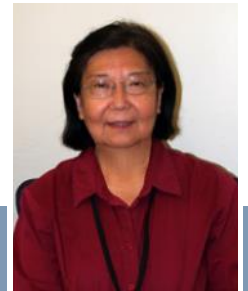
Norma J. Rios
East Agency



Rick Tang
East Agency



Mika Yamamoto
South Agency



Alice Ying
RPOSD



Frank Martinez
South Agency



Frank Morales
South Agency



Steven Flores
East Agency



Joyce Gibson
North Agency



Peg Lee
North Agency



Martha Lopez
RPOSD

35 YEARS



Delores Rios-Ramirez
Administrative Services Agency



Jennifer Williams
Administrative Services Agency

40 YEARS



Lucius Crenshaw
East Agency

NIGHT VISION

Report issued by Department of Public Health demonstrates how the award-winning Parks After Dark cuts crime and boosts wellness.

In a dramatic affirmation of a partnership built around the transformative power of parks and recreation, a newly-issued report details how the innovative Parks After Dark (PAD) program makes communities safer and has been extraordinarily effective in encouraging more active lifestyles.

Entitled “Parks After Dark: Preventing Violence While Promoting Healthy, Active Living,” the report published by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health highlights how the summertime program, which completed its fifth session in August, has increased participation in physical activity, improved access to services, promoted community building and decreased violence.

PAD is coordinated by the Department of Parks and Recreation in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the Sheriff's Department, and many other county and community partners, with support from the Board of Supervisors and the Chief Executive Office. In 2014, the award-winning program took place June 12-Aug. 16, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. As part of the programming at six carefully-selected parks, residents of all ages are provided with free activities that include organized sports, concerts and movies, classes on cooking and filmmaking, public health outreach, and health and social service resource fairs.

With communities throughout Los Angeles County disproportionately affected by obesity and violence, the report shows how PAD provides a model of how parks and public health staff, and law enforcement can collaborate to improve health and well-being in the County's most disadvantaged communities. Among its key findings:

Serious and violent crimes in the communities surrounding the original three parks declined 32% during the summer months between 2009 (the summer before program start) and 2013. At the same time, serious and violent crimes increased 18% in nearby communities with parks that did not have the PAD program.



Surveys conducted each year show that 97% or more of participants felt safe attending PAD.

There were more than 187,000 visits to the six PAD parks during the summer months between 2010 and 2013.

More than 16,000 community residents participated in physical activities during PAD in 2013, including many people who indicate they have a sedentary lifestyle.

“Parks play such a vital role in our communities — as places where people can not only enjoy healthy recreation, but also find safe harbor,” said Russ Guiney, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. “PAD is an amazing opportunity for the communities surrounding those parks to take full advantage of resources available to them. It also demonstrates to the people we serve that, while PAD is a summertime program, these facilities and open spaces are available to them all year long.”

One of the most visible participants in PAD is the Sheriff's Department Parks Bureau, which assigns deputies to attend all PAD events in order to maintain safety and strengthen ties between the community and local law enforcement. Capt. Holly Perez, Commander of the Parks Bureau, says PAD offers “alternatives that decrease the possibility of participation in at-risk behavior.” She noted that because of PAD, deputies were able to organize a basketball game with local youth that helped build camaraderie through friendly competition.

“This positive interaction between the local youth and my personnel has led to a trust and understanding that would not have happened without that PAD connection,” said Perez.

“Parks After Dark: Preventing Violence While Promoting Healthy, Active Living” can be viewed on the Department of Public Health website at <http://1.usa.gov/1su9JQb> — Andre Herndon



WHERE IN THE DEPARTMENT

ANSWER—This lovely pergola, located at Michillinda Park in Pasadena, was built circa 1912. The grassy expanse bounded by concrete curbs was originally a water garden, meant to act as a tranquil buffer between the Michillinda neighborhood and busy Huntington Drive. In 1912, Michillinda was a new subdivision offering larger lots than areas closer to the city center. You could purchase a 90 x 200 sized piece of property, referred to as a “Homesite,” for \$1,500. Today, the pergola is still treasured and is often used for special events such as outdoor weddings. — **Ansley B. Davies**

SHOWING DEDICATION IN SYLMAR

Hundreds attend October ceremony to mark the unveiling of a host of incredible improvements at El Cariso Community Regional Park.

On the sunny autumn morning of Oct. 18, hundreds gathered to celebrate with Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and the Department of Parks and Recreation as we dedicated the Phase II Improvement Project at El Cariso Community Regional Park.

The \$13 million in upgrades include a new, state-of-the-art Universally Accessible Playground, with sensory rich play structures that offer healthy recreation for children of all abilities; concession stands; handball courts; ADA-accessible pathways; restrooms; picnic shelters; and lighting.

Perhaps the most highly-anticipated addition: an artificial turf field that can be used for both soccer and flag football. In a previously unannounced moment, a sign unveiling revealed that the new field has been named in honor of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, who retired in December.

"I want to take a moment to express our gratitude for everything you and your terrific staff have done to ensure that all L.A. County residents have access to healthy and inclusive recreational opportunities," Director Russ Guiney said during the dedication. "Today, we celebrate the unveiling of even more opportunities for people of all ages to play, run, learn, grow and live healthier, more active lives."

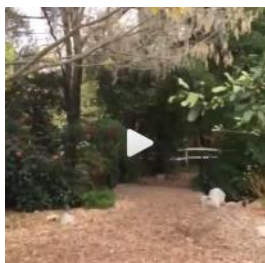


Other speakers at the ceremony included Congressman Tony Cárdenas, Department of Public Works Deputy Director Massood Eftekhari, Los Angeles County Arts Commission Civic Art Director Margaret Bruning and Shane's Inspiration Director of International Project Development Brad Thornton.

The day was highlighted by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by a soccer drill demonstration by local youth — one of whom challenged Supervisor Yaroslavsky to a goalie contest.

These wonderful recreational opportunities at El Cariso Community Regional Park are staffed by caring professionals who listen to the community and value their input regarding programs in the park. Special thanks go to Jon Gargan, Joyce Gibson, Gary Dickerson, Sandra Chapman, Larry Muepo, Dawn Warrington, Mister Washington, Chung Phung and Elsie Rivas.

— Heather Larson



ON Instagram

@lacountyparks

Have time for a quick walk around the park? Celebrate autumn and try to keep up while checking out this #hyperlapse video shot at Descanso Gardens:
<http://bit.ly/1EXSCXA>

PROMOTIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

MOVES

Jonathan Aguirre, Recreation Services Leader – *South Agency*
Ray Beall, Crew Instructor – *Regional Facilities Agency*
Edwin Bonilla, Electrician – *Regional Facilities Agency*
Chris Elliott, Carpenter Supervisor – *South Agency*
Yancy Engleton, Procurement Aid – *Administrative Services Agency*
Rodolfo Galleri, Painter Working Supervisor – *South Agency*
Margarita Jimenez-Gonzalez, Accountant III – *Administrative Services Agency*
Sara Keating, Administrative Assistant I – *Regional Park & Open Space District*
Darlene Lackey, Staff Assistant I – *Regional Facilities Agency*
Agie Jordan III, Manager I – *Regional Park & Open Space District*

Rod Lizama, Crew Instructor – *Regional Facilities Agency*
Tatevik Magakyan, Administrative Assistant III – *Executive Office*
Arcelia Navarrete, Administrative Assistant II – *Regional Park & Open Space District*
Brent Osborn, Plumber – *Regional Facilities Agency*
Luz Restrepo, Administrative Assistant III – *Executive Office*
Sheldon Solin, Crew Instructor – *Regional Facilities Agency*
Jennifer Williams, Management Analyst – *Administrative Services Agency*
Shawn Wright, Supervising Crew Instructor – *Regional Facilities Agency*
Andrew Zhao, Management Analyst – *Administrative Services Agency*



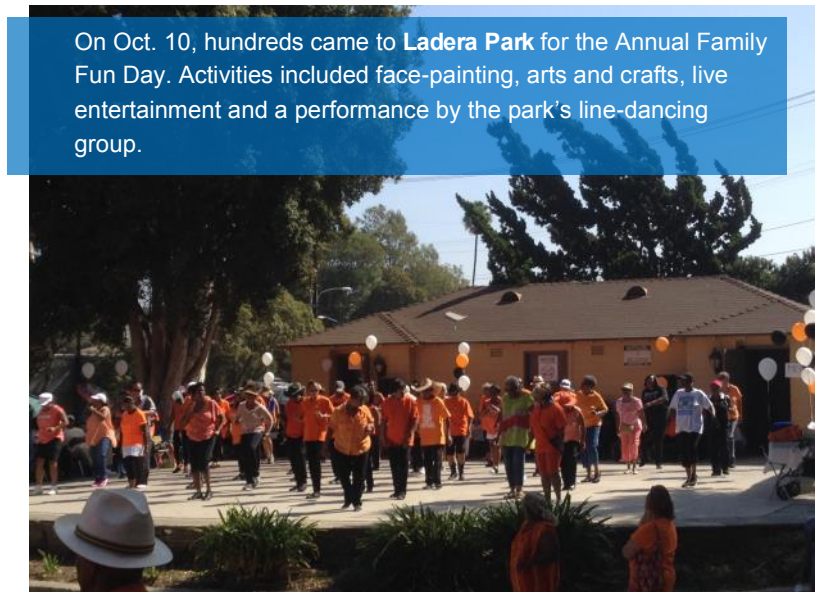
How your work is making lives better across Los Angeles County



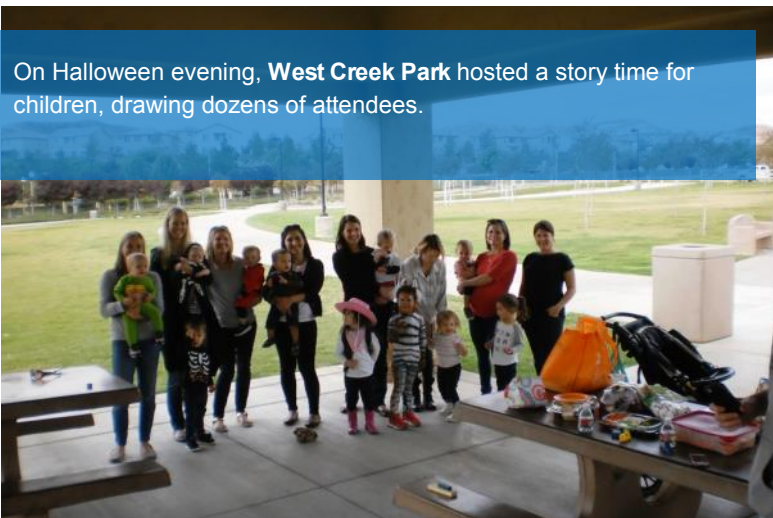
Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, **El Cariso Community Regional Park** helps keep seniors healthy with the popular chair exercise program.



On Nov. 7, members of the **Rowland Heights Park** After School Club participated in a donut-eating contest. And now, back to healthy snacks!



On Oct. 10, hundreds came to **Ladera Park** for the Annual Family Fun Day. Activities included face-painting, arts and crafts, live entertainment and a performance by the park's line-dancing group.



On Halloween evening, **West Creek Park** hosted a story time for children, drawing dozens of attendees.



At **Avocado Heights Park** on Oct. 18, a tribute to former Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina was highlighted by an equestrian show, local talent showcase and more.

TRIBUTE UNVEILED AT RUBEN SALAZAR PARK



Ceremony honors park's namesake, a groundbreaking Mexican-American journalist who died 44 years ago.

Honoring an icon of modern Los Angeles history, whose life and death became emblematic of the Chicano Rights movement of the 1970s, Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and the Department of Parks and Recreation held a special Aug. 29 ceremony honoring legendary journalist Ruben Salazar.

With this year marking the 44th anniversary of his passing, the gathering was hosted at the East Los Angeles park named for Salazar, a KMEX and L.A. Times journalist who was killed at age 42 while covering the Chicano Moratorium anti-war protest. The ceremony included the unveiling of a plaque that details

Salazar's legacy and stands as a lasting tribute at the popular community gathering place that has borne his name since it was renamed for him in 1970. Among those in attendance at the event was his daughter, Lisa Salazar Johnson.

"Ruben Salazar was a gifted chronicler and advocate who dedicated his talents to sharing with the world what it meant to be Mexican-American in a transformative time and place," said Supervisor Molina. "His contributions made him an icon in the community — and although his life was cut tragically short, his legacy lives on in the people influenced, inspired and touched by his work."

Immediately following the ceremony, the award-winning documentary "Ruben Salazar: Man in the Middle" was shown inside the gymnasium at the park, located at 3864 Whittier Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90023. First aired on PBS in April, Phillip Rodriguez's film chronicles Salazar's eventful life and landmark career, then examines the mysterious circumstances surrounding his killing.

"Ruben Salazar Park holds a special place in the heart of the communities it serves, and a big part of that is the man for whom it is named," said Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney. "We are honored by this opportunity to pay tribute to him, as well as raise new awareness about the history he documented, participated in and helped create."

— **Andre Herndon**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Department was well represented at the 28th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards on Oct. 22, where we proudly accepted several honors bestowed by the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission!

You can go online to learn more about the awards we won, including the prestigious Commissioners' Memorial Award, the Best Teamwork Award and two Traditional Plaques: <http://on.fb.me/10pleMI> | <http://qpc.co.la.ca.us/>



HIGH FIVE

RECOGNIZING YOUR SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY

This letter is to express my sincere gratitude to all of the lifeguards at Bonelli Park's Swim Beach. I recently found out about Swim Beach in July 2014. Since July 2014, I visited Swim Beach every weekend until the last day it was open on Labor Day. I never knew about this hidden gem. I absolutely love Swim Beach!

I especially want to recognize the lifeguard team for their hard work, endurance, integrity, teamwork and professionalism. People often do not get praised for their jobs because they are doing what's expected of them at work. However, I feel that your lifeguard team has exceeded my expectations and should be recognized and perhaps rewarded in some way.

Also, Bonelli is a very safe and clean place to visit. I've invited many people to the park since my first visit. My family looks forward to spending next summer at Bonelli Regional Park.

Sincerely,

Tracy Munoz
Brea, CA

Forgive me for cluttering your inbox on a busy Monday, but I'd like to bring to your attention a Parks and Recreation staffer who provides exceptional service. Samantha Orozco runs "Little Fawn" classes at Friendship Park on Fridays, and her program is fantastic. She is incredibly enthusiastic, engaging, and obviously takes great pride in developing activities that appeal to her target audience. The result is a quality program and a very popular class that all of the kids (my one- and three-year olds included) seem to love. This program and the enthusiasm that Samantha brings to it are real assets to the San Pedro community, and on behalf of my wife and kids, I'm extremely appreciative.

I also noted that she provides each participant with an official, pre-numbered departmental receipt for the \$5 program fee, so it looks like our internal controls are in good shape too!

Robert G. Campbell
Assistant Auditor-Controller,
County of Los Angeles

Dear Mr. Spragg,

I would like to begin by thanking you and the senior center staff for working with my office to organize the 2014 Senior Fair at Cerritos College. Over 1,000 seniors attended the Senior Fair from throughout the 38th Congressional District and benefited from the free health screenings and information provided.

The success of the event was due in large part to the willingness and hard work of you and your staff. I am appreciative of the time and resources you invested in making this event a reality.

Once again, thank you for all your assistance. I look forward to collaborating with you in the future on events and projects for the benefit of our community.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress
(Sent to Bryan Spragg)

I would like to share with everyone a beautiful story regarding one of your recreation services supervisors, Noel Maldonado.

We attended La Mirada's concert in the park on Thursday, August 28, 2014. After the concert ended, my husband and I, along with friends, were sitting on the grass talking with each other, when I discovered my large diamond from my wedding ring was missing. My first reaction was to throw-up. We have been married about 31 years. I told my husband what had happened. We immediately started looking for the diamond, along with our friends. With no success, we decided to come back in the morning to continue looking.

The next morning my husband and I started our search for the diamond. We marked the spot we were sitting the prior evening with some sunflower seed husks. While looking for the diamond, Noel pulled up in his vehicle and asked what we were doing. We told him the story. He gave us his business card and told us he would also look for the diamond. Noel took off and we kept on looking.

We decided to come back in the afternoon to look because the morning dew on the grass was glistening, mimicking anything that could resemble the shine of the diamond.

I came back alone in the afternoon to look again for the diamond. While I was looking, Noel came walking up to me. We exchanged hello's and Noel held out his hand and ask me if this was my diamond? I immediately started jumping up and down with excitement. I asked Noel about six different times if I could give him a hug because I was so happy. I kept telling him, he is my angel. He just laughed and was glad to help.

Noel told me a story of how he found the diamond for me. He also told me a story about how his wife lost a pearl from her favorite ring. He knew how upset his wife was and he was determined to find my diamond.

It is not often we experience the kindness we were shown by Noel. I feel blessed to have met such a wonderful man. He will always have a special place in my heart.

Noel is truly my angel.

Suzie Dimaria
Whittier, CA



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